

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 DAMASC 02262 171055Z

53

ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 H-02 CU-02 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 INR-07

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06

SAM-01 ACDA-05 EB-07 COME-00 OMB-01 IO-10 /082 W

----- 067080

R 170946Z JUN 75

FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3724

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY MUSCAT

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 2262

BEIRUT PASS BAGHDAD

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (SENATOR FULBRIGHT)

SUBJECT: FULBRIGHT VISIT TO SYRIA

1. SUMMARY. EX-SENATOR FULBRIGHT VISITED DAMASCUS JUNE 14-16. SYRIAN HOSTS CONDUCTED SENATOR ON VISITS TO DAMASCUS TOURIST SITES AS WELL AS MEETINGS WITH PRESIDENT ASAD, FONMIN KHADDAM, PEOPLE'S COUNCIL SPEAKER HALABI, AND DAMASCUS UNIV. RECTOR QADDURAH. AT SOCIAL EVENTS, SENATOR HAD OPPORTUNITY MEET WITH GOOD CROSS-SECTION SYRIAN OFFICIALS. IN ADDITION TO GENEROUS MEDIA COVERAGE OF VISIT, SENATOR WAS INTERVIEWED BY SYRIAN TV AND GAVE PARTIALLY FILMED PRESS CONFERENCE JUNE 16. END SUMMARY.

2. SENATOR FULBRIGHT ALONG WITH MESSRS. KERN AND THORPE ARRIVED OVERLAND FROM LEBANON JUNE 14. FOLLOWING LUNCH
CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 02 DAMASC 02262 171055Z

WITH EMBASSY OFFICERS AT CHARGE'S RESIDENCE, SENATOR

TOURED NATIONAL MUSEUM, THEN VISITED PEOPLE'S COUNCIL SPEAKER MUHAMMAD ALI AL-HALABI EARLY EVENING. FULBRIGHT EXPOSTULATED ON DIRECTION IN WHICH HE FELT AMERICAN MIDDLE EAST POLICY SHOULD MOVE TO SYMPATHETIC SPEAKER, EMPHASIZING THAT HIS (FULBRIGHT'S) VIEWS REGARDING RESOLUTION OF AREA CONFLICT WOULD ONLY CARRY WEIGHT IF HIS UNDERSTANDING OF ARAB READINESS TO ACCEPT ISRAEL'S EXISTENCE WAS AN ACCURATE ONE. HALABI IN RESPONSE STRESSED ARAB DESIRE FOR PEACE IN ORDER TO CLEAR WAY FOR NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT EFFORT, NOTING THAT SYRIAN ECONOMIC LOSSES CAUSED BY ISRAELI DESTRUCTION HAD TOTALLED OVER 700 MILLION DOLLARS, APART FROM MILITARY EQUIPMENT LOSSES. "WAR AND DEVELOPMENT CANNOT PROCEED TOGETHER," STATED HALABI. SPEAKER ALSO MENTIONED, IN CONTEXT HIS LETTER TO VICE PRESIDENT ROCKEFELLER CRITICIZING LETTER OF 76 SENATORS, DESIRE FOR "DIALOGUE" WITH AMERICAN SENATORS. WHEN SENATOR RAISED ISSUE OF OIL EMBARGO, HALABI LET SUBJECT PASS WITH REMARK THAT IMPOSITION OF NEW EMBARGO WOULD "DEPEND UPON CIRCUMSTANCES."

3. SYRIAN DEVELOPMENT THEME STRESSED REPEATEDLY IN ALMOST EVERY MEETING, INCLUDING THAT WITH PRESIDENT ASAD WHICH LASTED ONE AND ON-HALF HOURS (SEPTTEL). ASAD REITERATED TO SENATOR SYRIAN DESIRE FOR CLOSER ECONOMIC RELATIONS WITH U.S. AND READINESS TO WELCOME AMERICAN BUSINESSMEN.

4. JUNE 15 FOLLOWING SENATOR'S CALL ON FONMIN KHADDAM, DAMASCUS UNIV. RECTOR ABD AL-RAZZAQ QADDURAH CHAIRED ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION WITH LEADING FACULTY MEMBERS. SENATOR'S URGING THAT MORE PROFESSOR-STUDENT EXCHANGES WOULD BENEFIT BOTH U.S. AND SYRIA WAS FAVORABLY RECEIVED BY GROUP.

5. SARG GAVE VISIT TO PROMINENT MEDIA ATTENTION. APART FROM COVERAGE OF OFFICIAL MEETINGS, SENATOR TAPED THIRTEEN MINUTE TV INTERVIEW DUE FOR BROADCAST JUNE 20. PRESS CONFERENCE JUNE 16 PARTIALLY FILMED. INTERESTINGLY, REPORT OF CONFERENCE IN DAMASCUS PRESS DID NOT MENTION FULBRIGHT'S REMARK THAT ARAFAT WAS REASONABLE MAN WHO COULD BE PERSUADED TO PARTICIPATE IN SETTLEMENT PROCESS.

CONFIDENTIAL

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 DAMASC 02262 171055Z

6. COMMENT. SYRIANS WERE EXTREMELY PLEASED WITH SENATOR'S VISIT AND WELCOMED HIM WARMLY AT ALL LEVELS. FULBRIGHT DID NOT HESITATE TO STATE HIS DIFFERENCES WITH U.S. POLICY BUT EMPHASIZED REPEATEDLY TO ALL LISTENERS THAT PUBLIC EXPRESSIONS OF ARAB WILLINGNESS TO ACCEPT STATE OF ISRAEL WITHIN 1967 BOUNDARIES WAS NECESSARY ELEMENT IN ANY EFFORT TO INFLUENCE U.S. CONGRESSIONAL AND PUBLIC OPINION.
PELLETREAU

CONFIDENTIAL

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, VISITS, DIPLOMATIC DISCUSSIONS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 17 JUN 1975
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: CunninFX
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975DAMASC02262
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D750210-0804
From: DAMASCUS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750639/aaaabjrs.tel
Line Count: 115
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 3
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: CunninFX
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 30 JUL 2003
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <30 JUL 2003 by CunninFX>; APPROVED <21 NOV 2003 by CunninFX>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
06 JUL 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: FULBRIGHT VISIT TO SYRIA
TAGS: OVIP, PFOR, SY, US, (FULBRIGHT, J W)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 06 JUL 2006